

(c) Office—Refers to a Senate employee's appointing authority, that is, the Senator, committee chairman, elected officer, or an official of the Senate who appointed the employee. For purposes of these regulations, an employee in the Office of the President pro tempore, Deputy President pro tempore, Majority Leader, Minority Leader, Majority Whip, Minority Whip, Secretary of the Conference of the Majority, or Secretary of the Conference of the Minority shall be considered to be an employee, whose appointing authority is the Senator holding such position.

(d) Qualified Employee—An individual employed in a Senate office whose salary is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate, whose salary is within the limit set by his or her appointing authority for participation in a transit program under these regulations, and who is not a member of a car pool or the holder of any Senate parking privilege.

(e) Qualified Program—Refers to the program of a public mass transportation system that encourages employees to use public transportation in accordance with the requirements of Pub. L. 103-172 whose participation in the Senate program in accordance with these regulations has been approved by the Committee on Rules and Administration.

(f) Unique Identifier—A number or token, as approved by the Committee on Rules and Administration, designed to be used across all systems in the United States Senate to uniquely identify an individual's set of records within each of those systems.

Sec. 4. Program Requirements

(a) Each office within the Senate is authorized to provide to qualified employees under its supervision a de minimis fringe employment benefit of transit fare media of a value not to exceed the amount authorized by statute.

(b) Each appointing authority may establish a salary limit for participation in this program by his or her employees. If such salary limit is established, all staff paid at or below that limit, and who meet the other criteria established in these regulations, must be permitted to participate in this program.

(c) For purposes of these regulations, an individual employed for a partial month in an office shall be considered employed for the full month in that office.

(d) The fare media purchased by participating offices under this program shall only be used by qualified employees for travel to and from their official duty station.

(e) Any fare media purchased under this program may not be sold or exchanged, although exchanges of Metro Card Media for transportation provided by Virginia Railway Express (VRE), the Maryland Transit Administration's MARC trains, or vanpools certified by Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).

(f) In addition to any criminal liability, any person misusing, selling, exchanging or obtaining or using a fare media in violation of these regulations shall be required to reimburse the office for the full amount of the fare media involved and may be disqualified from further participation in this program.

Sec. 5. Office Administration of Program

Each office electing to participate in this program shall be responsible for its administration in accordance with these regulations, shall designate an individual to manage its program, and may adopt rules for its participation consistent with these regulations.

An employee who wishes to participate in this program shall make application with his or her office on a form which shall include a certification that such person is not a member of a motor pool, does not have any Senate parking privilege (or has relinquished same as a condition of participation), will

use the fare media personally for traveling to and from his or her duty station, and will not exchange or sell the fare media provided under this program. The application shall include the following statement:

This certification concerns a matter within the jurisdiction of an agency of the United States and making a false, fictitious, or fraudulent certification may render the maker subject to criminal prosecution under 18 U.S.C. 1001.

Safekeeping and distribution of fare media purchased for an office is the responsibility of the program manager in that office. Participating offices may not refund or replace any damaged, misplaced, lost, or stolen fare media.

Sec. 6. Senate Stationery Room Responsibilities

The only program currently available in the Washington, DC metropolitan area at this time is "Metro Pool," a program established through Metro by the District of Columbia. Transit benefits will be provided through Metro Pool for participating offices in the Washington, DC area. The Committee on Rules and Administration shall enter into an agreement with Metro Pool for purchase of fare media by the Senate Stationery Room as required by participating offices on a monthly basis. A participating office shall purchase the fare media with its authorized appropriated funds from the Senate Stationery Room through its stationery account pursuant to 2 U.S.C. §119.

Each office shall present to the Senate Stationery Room [two copies of] the certification referred to in section 7 of these regulations. A new certification shall be submitted when an employee is added to or deleted from the program. The Stationery Room shall make available to the Senate Rules Committee Audit Section a monthly summary of office participation in this program. In addition, the Stationery Room may not refund or replace any damaged, misplaced, lost, or stolen fare media that has been purchased through the office's stationery account.

Sec. 7. Certification

The certification required by section 6 shall be approved by the appointing authority and shall include the name, and unique identifier of each participating employee within that office, and the following statements:

(a) Each person included on the list is currently a qualified employee as defined in Section 3.

(b) No person included on the list has any current Senate parking privilege and that no parking privileges will be restored to any person on the list during the period for which the fare media is purchased.

(c) That each month's fare media for each participating employee does not exceed the maximum dollar amount specified in statute.

Sec. 8. Other Participating Programs

Section 6 provides for procedures for participation by Washington offices in the Metro Pool program established through Metro by the District of Columbia. Additional programs in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, or programs offered in other locations where Members have offices that meet the requirements of the law and these regulations, may be used for qualified employees, subject to the following requirements:

(A) Authorization

The public transit system shall submit information to the Committee on Rules and

Administration that it participates in an established state or local government program to encourage the use of public transportation for employees in accordance with the provisions of Pub. L. 103-172 and these regulations. If the program meets the requirements of the statute and these regulations and is approved by the Committee on Rules and Administration, any Senate office served by such transit system may provide benefits to its employees pursuant to these regulations.

(B) Procedures

(1) A qualified program operating in the Washington, DC metropolitan area that permits purchase arrangements similar to those provided by the Metro Pool program shall participate in the Senate program in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section 6.

(2) A qualified program operating in the Washington, DC metropolitan area that does not have purchase arrangements similar to Metro Pool, or a qualified program located outside that metropolitan area, that permits purchases directly by an office, may make arrangements for purchase of media directly with a participating office. Such an office may provide for direct payment to that system and shall submit the certification in accordance with Section 7.

(3) In the case of a qualified program that does not permit purchase arrangements as provided in paragraphs (1) or (2) above, an office may provide for reimbursement to a qualified employee and shall submit a certification in accordance with Section 7.

(C) Documentation

The following documentation must accompany a voucher submitted under paragraph 8(B)(2) or (3):

(1) A copy of the Rules Committee approval, in accordance with section 8(A), with the first voucher submitted for that transit program, provided subsequent vouchers identify the transit program.

(2) The certification.

(3) Proof of purchase of the fare media.

(D) Voucher Guidance

In the case of a Senator's state office, reimbursement for payment to either a qualified transit system, or a qualified employee shall be from the Senators' Official Personnel and Office Expense Account (SOP&OEA) as a home state office expense on a seven part voucher. In the Washington, DC metropolitan area, reimbursement for payment to either a qualified transit system, or a qualified employee shall be as follows:

1. In the case of a Senator's office from the SOP&OEA as an "other official expense" (discretionary expense).

2. In the case of a Senate committee or administrative office as an "Other" expense.

Sec. 9. Special Circumstances

Any circumstances not covered under these regulations shall be considered on application to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Sec. 10. Effective Date

These regulations shall take effect on the first day of the month following date of approval.

VETERANS HONOR FLIGHT

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, North Dakota has long maintained strong ties with our Nation's military.

My State is home to two Air Force bases and the Nation's best Air National Guard unit. More of our young people volunteer to serve their country in the military than nearly any other State.

In North Dakota, our commitment to our troops does not end when we welcome them home from war. We also

have a strong tradition of honoring our veterans. In fact, when I started a North Dakota Veterans History Project 5 years ago to record the stories of our veterans for future generations, the outpouring of interest resulted in more than 1,500 interviews.

So I did not find it surprising that when the WDAY television station based in Fargo, ND, organized an "Honor Flight" to bring veterans of World War II to Washington, D.C., it had an overabundance of donors and too few seats to accommodate all the veterans. But WDAY has chartered a flight to Washington next month and will bring 100 veterans of World War II to see the memorial on our National Mall that was built in their honor. My colleagues, Senator CONRAD and Congressman POMEROY, and I will host a reception for them in the historic Russell Caucus Room.

I can't think of a better way to pay tribute to these heroes than this trip to our Nation's Capital. Many of them will visit for the first time the World War II Memorial that is a powerful symbol of the sacrifice they made for the safety and freedom of our country and the world.

This is a group of Americans who were appropriately labeled "the greatest generation" by Tom Brokaw. I remember reading his book some years ago and marveling again at the dedication those young men, and some young women, expressed to this country. They dedicated their lives to defeating the fascism and Nazism that threatened the peace and prosperity of the world. They kept the free world free. Many paid for it with the ultimate sacrifice—their lives.

Several years ago, I was reminded just how important their sacrifice was when I was part of a congressional delegation involved in discussions with members of the European Parliament. We had been discussing some differences between the United States and the Europeans for some time. It was at this point that a European delegate stopped me and said, "Mr. Senator, I want you to understand how I feel about your country."

He said, "In 1944, I was 14 years old and standing on a street corner in Paris, France, when the U.S. Liberation Army marched in and freed my country from the Nazis."

He said, "A young American soldier reached out his hand and gave that 14-year-old boy an apple. I will go to my grave remembering that moment. You should understand what your country means to me, to us, to my country."

To me, this man's story is a testament to the respect and admiration people around the world feel for our country. And this is because the "greatest generation"—those same men and women who will visit Washington next month—were willing to leave their homes so many years ago and travel around the world to fight an enemy that threatened our freedom. They did it without complaint and

without question. They loved their country.

There is a verse that goes, "When the night is full of knives, and the lighting is seen, and the drums are heard, the patriots are always there, ready to fight and ready to die, if necessary, for freedom."

The men and women who will travel to Washington next month are patriots who answered when duty called. The Honor Flight is an expression of our thanks for the sacrifice they made that is too large to ever fully repay.

ANNOUNCING THE BIRTH OF ROBERT RILEY LUGAR

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, Char and I want to share with all of our colleagues and friends the joyous news of the birth of Robert Riley Lugar on April 16, 2007, at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington, DC. Robert Riley was a healthy 8 pounds at birth. His parents are our son, John Hoereth Lugar, and his wife, Kelly Smith Lugar, daughter of Renee Routon Conner and the late Robert Lee Smith. Robert Riley was born at 6:21 p.m., and within the next hour, Renee, Char, and I were in the delivery room to admire a very healthy newborn baby boy and to congratulate John and Kelly as we shared these unforgettable moments together. Robert Riley joins his big brothers Preston Charles and Griffin Mack.

Kelly and John were married on November 3, 2001, in the Washington Cathedral with Dr. Lloyd Ogilvie, former Chaplain of the Senate, presiding. They and their families and guests had enjoyed a rehearsal dinner in the Mansfield Room of the Capitol on the night before the wedding. Kelly worked with many of our colleagues during her service to the administration of President George Bush and our former colleague, Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham, as Deputy Assistant Secretary with responsibilities for congressional relations. She now has a private consulting business. A graduate of the University of Texas, she was once a member of the staff of Congressman RALPH HALL of Texas. John Lugar came with us to Washington, along with his three brothers, 30 years ago. He graduated from Langley High School in McLean, VA, Indiana University, and received his master's of business administration degree from Arizona State University. He is currently a vice president with Jones Lang LaSalle, a commercial real estate services and investment management firm.

We know that you will understand our excitement and our gratitude that they and we have been given divine blessing and responsibility for a glorious new chapter in our lives.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LENEXA, KANSAS

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I wish to honor the city of Lenexa, KS. On

May 8, Lenexa, which is known as the City of Festivals for the numerous festivals and events it hosts each year, will mark its 100th anniversary. This grand event will be part of a weeklong community celebration of history and culture.

Lenexa was platted in 1869 by French-born civil engineer Octave Chanute, who, in addition to designing the original Hannibal Bridge over the Missouri River in Kansas City, also served as a mentor to the Wright Brothers in their quest for flight.

Lenexa was named for Na Nex Se, a highly respected, hard-working Shawnee Indian woman, the daughter-in-law of Chief Black Hoof. Thirty-eight years later, on May 8, 1907, Lenexa was incorporated as a City of the 3rd Class.

In Lenexa's earliest days, people from various backgrounds and cultures came together to form this great city. With a population of approximately 300, the young community boasted a healthful location, graded schools, three churches, suburban train service, excellent telephone service, and an electric railway station.

Today, Lenexa has grown to a population of 46,000 residents and enjoys a healthy business base and is considered a city of choice for a variety of high-tech and bioscience companies. The city also is looked to as a leader in local government initiatives, including watershed management and public safety.

Lenexa cherishes its rich history, heritage and culture, and with this celebration marking the city's 100th anniversary, Lenexa honors its past while looking forward to the future. I congratulate Lenexa and its residents, and I wish them an outstanding second hundred years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN RECOGNITION OF BISHOP ARETHA E. MORTON

• Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I wish to honor one of the great inspirations to the young people of my hometown, Bishop Aretha E. Morton, who will be retiring this week from the Tabernacle Full Gospel Baptist Cathedral in Wilmington.

On this day, 48 years ago, she preached her trial sermon; 24 years later she was ordained, becoming the first woman to pastor a Baptist Church in Delaware. She has now served longer than any pastor in her church's almost 90-year history.

She also made history in 1993 by becoming the first woman, and the first African-American, to be a chaplain for the Wilmington Fire Department.

Around Wilmington, where everyone knows Bishop Morton, she is affectionately called "Mother"—and for good reason. She has spent her career reaching out to my city's youth, inspiring students to achieve and offering something that those in trouble don't have enough of—hope.